



# U.S.-RUSSIA

## PEER-TO-PEER DIALOGUE PROGRAM

### FY 2014 PROGRAM STATEMENT OF INTEREST

*“Expanding direct contacts between Americans and Russians...will serve to strengthen mutual understanding and trust and make it possible to raise U.S.-Russian relations to a qualitatively new level.” – June 17, 2013 Joint Statement by the Presidents of the United States and the Russian Federation on Enhanced Bilateral Engagement.*

To help foster greater contacts between Americans and Russians, the State Department is announcing the FY 2014 U.S.-Russia Peer-to-Peer Dialogue Program, which will provide grants up to **\$100,000** to support unique projects centered on **Russian-American, peer-to-peer collaboration, including an exchange of best practices between Russians and Americans on a topic of mutual interest.**

This program competition and selection will be administered in two stages. Due to the anticipated high number of applications, applicants will first submit a Statement of Interest, as outlined below. Only successful applicants of this round will be asked to submit a more detailed application (see timeline for more information). Approximately 30 grants will be issued under this competition.

Projects must focus on Russian-American peer-to-peer dialogue or people-to-people engagement and be non-political in nature. Applicants are encouraged to incorporate innovative ways to foster interaction including the use of social media, video conferencing, short-term exchanges, and internships. Successful projects will include an outcome or product that enhances greater interaction and understanding between our two societies.

#### **Applicant Eligibility**

Both American and Russian non-commercial organizations and academic institutions (both Public and Private) are eligible to apply. Applicants should identify the partner organization in this Statement of Interest. Commercial firms are not eligible to apply under this program.

#### **Project Eligibility**

Proposals may focus on any theme including, but not limited to higher education, cultural exchange, journalism, environment, or civil society. Projects should be original, creative, dynamic, and interesting and focus on sharing innovative practices, which are unique to each country. Activities can include anything from exchanges, web-chats, seminars, interactive

training, classroom activities, and the development of online resources. Applicants are encouraged to introduce new and unique approaches to addressing peer-to-peer contact and the exchange of best practices that have a multiplier effect and are results-driven.

This program is not intended to finance existing, ongoing activities between two established partners. Projects that include political activity or focus primarily on academic or scientific research will not be supported. This program is not intended to support core administrative funding for applicants or to provide continued funding for initiatives that have already been launched.

## PROJECT INFORMATION AND PROPOSAL FORMAT

Please provide a brief description following the guidelines below. The Statement must not exceed three pages (including budget) and must be submitted as a single-spaced MS Word document or PDF format with 12-point font. **Please submit the Statement of Interest in electronic form by March 12, 2014 to: [US-RussiaDialogue@state.gov](mailto:US-RussiaDialogue@state.gov).**

- **Project Name:** Provide a unique project title
- **Applicant Organization:** Provide the name and a brief description, focusing on the organization's experience relevant to the proposed project. Please include at least one name and e-mail address of a point of contact
- **Partner Organization:** Provide the name and a brief description, focusing on the organization's experience relevant to the proposed project.
- **Program Description:** Describe the proposed program, focusing on the following:
  - What is the main issue being addressed?
  - Why is it significant?
  - What are the key activities under the program and how will the applicant successfully carry them out?
  - Who are direct beneficiaries of the program?
  - How is the program original and innovative?
  - What is the anticipated outcome or results of the program?
- **Budget:** Provide a budget summary (not detailed line-by-line breakdown) of your proposal along the following categories:
  - Personnel (salaries and fringe benefits)
  - Travel (tickets, lodging, per diem)
  - Supplies (program materials, office supplies related to the program)
  - Contractual (consultants, interpreters, sub-grants, other)
  - Other Direct Costs (room rental, communication etc.)
  - Indirect Costs (if applicable)

**NOTE: Administrative costs may not exceed 30% of the total budget. This includes *both* personnel and indirect costs. Projects that are ultimately funded may be funded at a lower level.**

## **PROPOSAL SELECTION AND TIMELINE**

### **SELECTION**

**Statements of Interest will be reviewed for technical eligibility using the following criteria:**

1. Applicant organization is a Russian or American non-governmental organization or academic institution.
2. Amount requested does not exceed \$100,000.
3. Proposal was submitted before the published deadline.
4. Applicant only submitted one application.
5. The project does not include political or strictly research-related activities.

**Following the technical eligibility review, a selection committee will evaluate all eligible proposals using the following criteria:**

1. The project has concrete, relevant, and realistic goals and activities.
2. Includes innovative programming.
3. The participants and beneficiaries are clearly identified.
4. The applicant demonstrates an ability to successfully implement the project.
5. Administrative costs do not exceed 30% of total costs.

**Top-ranked proposals will be forwarded to a selection committee for their review.**

### **TIMELINE** (some dates are approximate)

**February 11:** Competition is announced.

**March 12:** Statements of Interest are due (submitted to [US-RussiaDialogue@state.gov](mailto:US-RussiaDialogue@state.gov))

**March 31:** Statements of Interest are reviewed by a selection committee and top-ranked SOIs will be selected. Organizations that successfully passed the first round of selection will be invited to submit a more detailed project narrative and budget.

**April 30:** Detailed proposals and budgets are due.

**May 30:** Detailed proposals are reviewed by a selection committee and finalists and alternates will be selected.

**June 30:** Grants to program finalists issued.

**All decisions regarding technical eligibility, project evaluation, and committee recommendations are final.**

## **NEXT STEPS**

Following an initial round of selection, successful applicants will be contacted to complete a more detailed application, which will include:

- SF-424 Federal Application Forms
- Narrative of proposed project activities (five pages)
- Calendar plan of activities
- Description of key 2-3 key personnel in each organization
- Detailed budget
- Budget narrative

Grant recipients will be required to submit the following reports:

- Quarterly Program and Financial Reports
- Final Program and Financial Reports

Recipients will be required to comply with State Department Standard Terms and Conditions. U.S. Recipients will be required to adhere to all applicable Office of Management and Budget Circulars.

Recipients should be prepared to issue sub-grants with partner organizations in order to successfully carry out program activities.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

For information on projects funded under the FY 2013 competition, please see the program webpage: <http://moscow.usembassy.gov/us-russiadiologue.html>.

For more information, write [US-RussiaDialogue@state.gov](mailto:US-RussiaDialogue@state.gov).

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